

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /092 W

-----089164 240048Z /20

R 230822Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7329

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINT, EAID, BG, BM, PK

SUBJECT: ARAKANESE REFUGEE PROBLEM

1. QUOTING A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, THE PAKISTAN
PRESS REPORTED 21 MAY THAT THE GOP HAS CONVEYED TO THE
BURMESE GOVERNMENT ITS CONCERN ABOUT THE EXODUS OF A LARGE NUMBER
OF MUSLIMS FROM BURMA INTO BANGLADESH. THE SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY
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SAID THAT THE BURMESE CHARGE' WAS CALLED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
ON 17 MAY AND WAS ASKED TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS
GOVERNMENT THE "EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS" OF "FORCIBLE EXPULSION AND
BRUTALITIES" PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND THE
"ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION" IN PAKISTAN TO THESE HAPPENINGS. GOP IS
PARTICULARLY CONCERNED, THE ARTICLES CONTINUED, ABOUT THE
HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM AND THEREFORE URGED THE

BURSSE BRING ABOUT A QUICK RESOLUTION SO AS TO PUT AN END TO THE
SUFFERINGS OF THE AFFECTED PEOPLE.

2. COMMENT: THIS DEMARCHE IS IN KEEPING WITH THE GOP'S OFT-STAED
PAN-ISLAMIC CONCERNs. ALTHOUGH ITS HISTORIC CLOSE ASSOCIATION
WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE MUSLIM MINORITY IN BURMA PRIOR TO
1971 MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO PAK INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE, THE
IMPETUS FOR PUBLISHING THE DEMARCHE (AND WE NOTE THEY WAITED FOUR
DAYS BEFORE DOING SO) IS PROBABLY TIED UP WITH PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS
TO ASSERT ITS ISLAMIC CREDENTIALS AND -- INCIDENTALLY -- TO
MOLLIFY WHATEVER DOMESTIC SYMPATHY THERE MAY BE FOR THE MUSLIM
MINORITY IN BURMA.

HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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